

California High Speed Rail Authority Small Business Policy

The California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is overseeing the construction of a \$43 billion dollar state-of-the-art high speed rail system, with 800 miles of track connecting urban centers from San Francisco to San Diego, utilizing trains that operate at speeds of 220 mph. Building this state-of-the-art high speed rail system will promote a strong, diverse economy. The project will create significant contracting opportunities for businesses throughout the State of California and more than 600,000 construction-related jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs once the system is fully in place. The CHSRA is committed to ensuring Small Businesses (SBs), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and Micro-Businesses have the maximum practicable opportunity to compete for and participate in the CHSRA's contracting and procurement opportunities.

As a condition of Federal financial assistance, from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the CHSRA has signed an assurance that it will implement the best practices of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 26 "*US Department of Transportation DBE Program*" and comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes to ensure Small and Disadvantaged Businesses have an equitable opportunity to participate in contracts funded in part or in whole with Federal financial assistance. The CHSRA has established a Small and Disadvantaged Business Program, inclusive of the aforementioned businesses, which meet the State of California SB/DVBE and Federal DBE certification eligibility criteria, and herein after, will be referred to as SBs. The SB Program will be administered in accordance with Executive Order S-02-06 and, where applicable, Federal regulations at 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the CHSRA to ensure SBs as defined by Government Code 14837, Military and Veteran Code 999 and 49 CFR Part 26; are afforded every opportunity to participate in the CHSRA's contracting program. The CHSRA strives to meet an overall 30 percent SB participation goal, representative of firms that reflect the diversity of California.

Program Objectives

The CHSRA's policy and race and gender neutral SB Program is further established to meet the following objectives:

- ▶ Ensure participation by SB concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals;
- ▶ Provide maximum practicable opportunities for SBs, including veteran owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran small businesses;
- ▶ Ensure best practices are implemented, consistent with our nation's Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity laws that ensure all individuals regardless of race, gender, age, disability and national origin benefit from activities funded by Federal financial assistance;
- ▶ Meet construction employment goals for minorities and women;
- ▶ Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of all contracts inclusive of DOT – assisted contracts;
- ▶ Create a level playing field in which SBs can compete fairly for all CHSRA contracts and subcontracts;
- ▶ Ensure that the SB Program is implemented in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations;

- ▶ Ensure that only firms that fully meet Government Code 14837, Military and Veterans Code 999 and 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to be counted towards meeting the overall SB goal;
- ▶ Help remove barriers for the participation of SBs;
- ▶ Assist in the development of existing SB firms--enabling the firms to compete successfully in the market place;
- ▶ Ensure Contractors meet the established SB goals, including developing a SB Performance Plan (SB Utilization Plan);
- ▶ Ensure subcontract solicitation and subcontract documents include the SB Program plan and goal requirements;
- ▶ Ensure the SB Program is flexible, attainable, efficient and credible; and
- ▶ Ensure a workforce on the construction of the project to be reflective of the diversity of California.

The CHSRA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the CHSRA's SB Program. The CEO will designate a SB Liaison Officer (SBLO). In this capacity, the SBLO is responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance by all parties with respect to all components of the program. Implementation of the SB Program is bestowed the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the CHSRA in its financial assistance agreements with the State of California and FRA.

As permitted and authorized in State and Federal laws and regulations, the CHSRA will administer the SB Program in accordance with the spirit and intent of the Governor's Executive Order and US Department of Transportation Federal financial assistance agreements until all funds are expended.

The CHSRA will disseminate this SB Program plan to the California High Speed Rail Board and circulate to all components of the CHSRA. In addition, the CHSRA will distribute this SB Program to SBs and non-SBs business communities. Distribution will be accomplished through posting on the CHSRA's and California Department of General Services (DGS) websites; and through electronic notification to SBs on the DGS and California Department of Transportation SB directories and referenced in the CHSRA's contract solicitation documents.

Roelof van Ark
Chief Executive Officer

Date

"The California High Speed Rail Authority is committed to making small business participation a top priority in all contracting phases of this historic infrastructure project...this commitment and partnership will serve to inspire business growth, job creation and workforce development opportunities while building the vitality of California's high speed rail program."--Roelof van Ark, CEO California High Speed Rail Authority

CHSRA ensures Equal Opportunity to all people and businesses, regardless of race, color, or national origin.